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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| : Examiner: Luk, Emmanue |
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| : Group Art Unit: 1722 |
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| : Confirmation No.: 6106 |
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|) |
| : January 31, 2005 |
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with a request for continued examination. In accordance with current practice, copies of the listed U.S. Patent documents are not being provided.

FORMAL MATTERS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4), since a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be

required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1710.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202)-625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Richard P. Bauer

Registration No. 31,588

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN 525 West Monroe Street Suite 1600 Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693 Facsimile: (312) 902-1061

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Sheet

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Application Number | 09/996,991 | | |
| Filing Date | November 30, 2001 | | |
| First Named Inventor | Witold Neter | | |
| Art Unit | 1722 | | |
| Examiner Name | Emmanuel Luk | | |
| Attomey Docket Number | 2132010-00137 | | |

| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (f known)} | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | ^{US-} 3,882,213 | 05-06-1975 | Uhlig | |
| | | ^{US-} 6,223,541 B1 | 05-01-2001 | Farrag | |
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| | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages | | |
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| Examiner | Date | |
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| Signature | Considered | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.